IN THE SPECIFICATION

Please replace the title with the following amended title:

POLYNUCLEOTIDES ENCODING A MULTIPLE EPITOPE FUSION ANTIGEN FOR USE IN AN HCV ANTIGEN/ANTIBODY COMBINATION ASSAY

Please replace the abstract with the following amended abstract:

~~An HCV core antigen and NS3/4a antibody combination assay~~ The invention relates to a method of detecting HCV infection in a biological sample, the method comprising providing an immunoassay solid support, comprising an HCV anti-core antibody, an antigen comprising an HCV NS3/4a epitope, and an HCV multiple epitope fusion antigen, that can detect both HCV antigens and antibodies present in a sample ~~using a single solid matrix, is provided, as well as immunoassay solid supports for use in the assay~~. The invention also includes polynucleotides encoding multiple epitope fusion antigens for use in the assay, recombinant vectors and host cells comprising such polynucleotides, and methods of producing the multiple epitope fusion antigens.